



# Elk Knob State Park

5564 Meat Camp Road  
Todd, NC 2868

828-297-7261

[elk.knob@ncparks.gov](mailto:elk.knob@ncparks.gov)

GPS: 36.332586, -81.69064

## Activities

**Education and Events:** Park rangers hold regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs about Elk Knob State Natural Area. Watch for notices of these programs on park displays and through local media.

To arrange a special exploration of Elk Knob State Natural Area for your group or class, contact the park office. Elk Knob has a rich natural and cultural history, and by special request, park rangers will do on-site and outreach environmental education programs.



**Hiking:** Visitors can explore four trails in the park. Hike up the 1.9 mile Summit Trail, a rise of about 1,000 feet, to see panoramic views of the valleys below. At the summit, northern and southern display panels identify the visible mountains, their elevations and their distances. Beneath the panoramic picture displays are brief descriptions about the formation of the Appalachian mountain range.

The 2-mile Backcountry Trail, a moderate to strenuous hike, winds down into a valley where the backcountry campsites are located. The Beech Tree Trail—our Kid's TRACK Trail—is an easy one-mile loop around the picnic area. The new Maple Run Trail is designed for cross country skiing.



**Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing:** Elk Knob State Park allows many activities not offered at other State Parks including cross country skiing and snowshoeing. We strive to keep the park open in extreme winter conditions when many other parks are forced to close. This allows for unprecedented State Park access during some of the most extreme winter conditions. While we welcome cross country skiing and snowshoeing, snowboarding is not allowed at Elk Knob State Park.

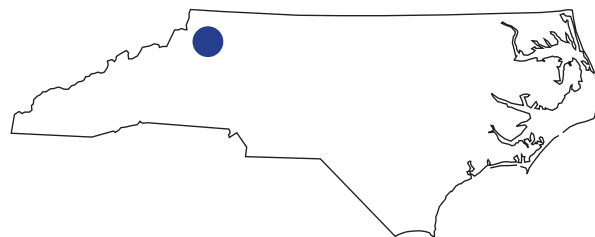


**Camping:** Backcountry, primitive camping is available. There are three sites that will accommodate up to six people and two tents each, two group sites and zone camping. You can self-register for the first three sites at the trailhead. Group sites must be reserved at least three days in advance at the park office. Zone camping is a space along a ridge where you can set up a tent on any part of the ridge between two posts marking the beginning and end of the ridge.



**Picnicking:** Fire up the charcoal and enjoy a meal with family and friends, or just spend a lazy afternoon at one of 11 picnic sites nestled in a remote, shaded area of the park. Each site has a charcoal grill and a picnic table. Two of the 11 sites are handicapped accessible.

## Location



Elk Knob State Park is located in Watauga County approximately 9.5 miles north of Boone.

## Park Hours

North Carolina State Parks are open every day, with the exception of Christmas Day. Park hours vary with the seasons.

Please visit the North Carolina State Park website or contact the park office for the most current information about seasonal hours, activities, alerts, camping fees, programs rules and weather.

[www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)

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